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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

__ALEXANDER
__BELK
__BRUBECK
__CHASE
__DINGEMAN
__DUNGAN
__ECKEL
__FORRESTAL
__JOHNSON
__KLEIN
__SCHLESINGER
__SMITH, WM. Y.

COUNTRY	SOVIET BLOC / YUGOSLAVIA
REPORT NO.	TDCS-3/566,658
SUBJECT	COMMENTS OF YUGOSLAV AND BLOC DIPLOMATS ON THE PROBABLE EFFECT OF KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS
DATE DISTR.	6 DECEMBER 1963
PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
DATE OF INFO.	25-29 NOVEMBER 1963
REFERENCES	74578
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	GREECE, ATHENS (28 NOVEMBER, 2 DECEMBER 1963)
APPRAISAL	2 (THAT STATEMENTS ARE ACCURATELY REPORTED)
FIELD REPORT NO.	EKA 4230

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A GREEK POLITICAL OBSERVER (B) WITH CONTACTS AMONG BLOC DIPLOMATS IN ATHENS, FROM THE DIPLOMATS MENTIONED BELOW.

Kennedy admin

FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF (PORTION GARBLED-BEING SERVICED)* BEING TAKEN BY SOVBLOC AND YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS IN GREEK CIRCLES:

1. ON 25 NOVEMBER 63, YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TO GREECE PEKO DAPCEVIC EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ASSASSINATION OF KENNEDY WOULD NOT CHANGE THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE, ADDING THAT HE IS CERTAIN SOVIET UNION IS WELL DISPOSED TO CONTINUE FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH WEST. DAPCEVIC SAID THERE HAS BEEN "A GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE" ON PART OF SOVIET PEOPLE IN PAST FEW YEARS FROM EARLIER ATTITUDE THAT ALL AMERICANS AND PARTICULARLY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ARE WAR MONGERS TO CURRENT THINKING THAT AMERICANS, LIKE SOVIETS,

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR		OO	EX
STATE/DIR																	

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

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DEC - 6 1963

REALLY WANT PEACE. ZENITH OF THIS CHANGE CAME WHEN UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED IT WAS WILLING TO SELL WHEAT TO SOVIET UNION. ACCORDING TO DAPCEVIC, THIS ANNOUNCEMENT MADE TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON SOVIET PEOPLE AND THEIR FEELING IS NOW SO FAVORABLE TOWARD AMERICANS THAT EVEN IF SOVIET LEADERSHIP WANTED TO REVERSE THIS FEELING, IT COULD NOT EASILY DO SO.

2. ON 26 NOVEMBER, CZECH FIRST SECRETARY VAKLAV SVESTKA STATED THAT CZECH EMBASSY IN ATHENS HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REACTION OF PRAGUE TO THE ASSASSINATION, BUT FEELING OF CZECH EMBASSY PEOPLE IN ATHENS WAS THAT U S POLICY WOULD NOT CHANGE MATERIALLY. SVESTKA EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ASSASSINATION WILL HAVE DELAYING ACTION ON IMPROVED EAST-WEST RELATIONS: UNDER KENNEDY THINGS WERE MOVING QUICKLY TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING, AND CHANGE OF PRESIDENT NOW WILL OF NECESSITY SLOW DOWN THE COURSE OF EVENTS BECAUSE "PERSONAL FACTOR" IS NOW MISSING. KENNEDY HAD DEVELOPED CONTACTS WITH SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVED ACCEPTANCE OF SOVBLOC (PORTION GARBLED)* POPULATIONS AS PEACE LOVING MAN; JOHNSON HAS TO ESTABLISH THIS FOR HIMSELF NOW, AND IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

3. ON 29 NOVEMBER, SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY VITALIY NOVIKOV STATED THAT SOVIETS DO NOT EXPECT IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN US FOREIGN POLICY BECAUSE WITH ONLY ONE YEAR BEFORE ELECTIONS JOHNSON AS NON-ELECTED PRESIDENT IS NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE BASIC KENNEDY

POLICIES. SOVIETS ARE ANXIOUS, HOWEVER, OVER FUTURE EAST-WEST RELATIONS. ASSASSINATION CLEARLY SHOWS RADICAL RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS ARE STRONG, HAVE SUPPORTERS IN LOCAL POLICE AND POLITICAL CIRCLES AND ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THEIR IDEALS. IT ALSO REVEALS, NOVIKOV SAID, STRENGTH OF REACTION IN AMERICA TO KENNEDY POLICIES SOVIET PEOPLE FEAR THAT RIGHT-WING WILL BE DOMINANT.

4. ON 29 NOVEMBER, RUMANIAN AMBASSADOR MIRCEA BALANESCU SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN BLOC POLICY VIS-A-VIS WEST AND ANY INCREASE IN TENSION WOULD BE RESULT OF CHANGED AMERICAN POLICY.

5. FIELD DISSEM STATE ARMY NAVY AIR EUCOM CINCNELM CINCSOUTH (PERSONAL).

6. *HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: MISSING PORTIONS WILL BE DISSEMINATED ONLY IF THEY MATERIALLY AFFECT THE SENSE OF THIS REPORT.

END OF MESSAGE